



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **TAC Minutes, 2/8/2012**

### **Town of Arlington**

#### **Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 2/8/12, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

**Members and Associates Present:** Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wayne Chouinard, Paul Kent, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener.

**Missing Members and Associates:** Jean Clark

**Visitors Present:** none

- Public Comments. None.
- Administration.
  - Minutes of 1/11/12 were approved unanimously.
  - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
- Town reports.
  - Wayne (DPW) reported that DPW is awaiting Pavement Management Report to develop a list of road paving priorities. DPW is also doing a Traffic Signal Equipment Inventory. The Town has completed 75-80 sidewalk ramps at intersections.
  - Laura (Planning) reported that the Symmes developers are expected to submit an Assisted Living project for the middle part of the hill, where the Medical Office Building was once planned. Expected in March.
  - Corey (Police) reported on a AAA program called "Walk Safe", organizing classroom presentations, art, and outdoor activities that promote pedestrian safety at the elementary school level.
- Flag Pilot Program. Jeff talked to the Transportation Advisory Group in Lexington regarding their experience with crossing flags. They had raised liability concerns. Arlington Town Counsel was not concerned because flags are not traffic control devices, and are used in conjunction with crosswalks, which are traffic control devices. Goal is increased visibility for pedestrians. The Working Group is preparing an article for the Advocate.
- Downing Square. Selectmen approved the geometric changes to intersection, including additional parking and removing turn pocket between Lowell and Bow.
- Parking on Mill Street. Carol Kowalski has asked TAC to look at prohibiting parking on Mill Street between Millbrook Drive and Mass. Ave. during peak driving hours, to allow for freer travel through the Mill Street intersection. It appears that the auto repair store uses the spaces (B & R Auto). Corey is concerned about removing parking from the approach to Mass. Ave. because it might make it harder for cars turning left from Bacon Street. Scott asked whether two lanes are able to use the Mill /Mass intersection now, or does the

parking prevent full utilization. Will need to approach B & R Auto and International Auto Parts Store

- Old Mystic/Hutchinson. Selectmen requested TAC to look at intersection after 2 recent accidents. Ed and Howard will form a Working Group.
- Schools.
  - Brackett.~ John reported that a recent survey found an average of 38% of students walk to school (42% when it wasn't raining). ~A group of dog owners is advocating extending the Robbins Farm Park off-leash hours from 6-7:30am to 6-7:45am. A suggested walking route runs through Robbins Farm Park.
  - Bishop. Signs are now in compliance
  - Stratton. Changing Wheeler to one-way has shifted traffic to Dickson, according to one complaint. Cars may still be going both ways on Wheeler. Elisabeth asked if there is room for a sidewalk on Dickson. Jeff noted that problems at Stratton are exacerbated by the short term extra students from Thompson.
  - Ottoson. Moving slowly. Working Group will coordinate with OPAC.
- Mass. Ave. at Appleton. Laura reported that we received a draft report on this intersection from MassDOT Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS). They are looking for any corrections to the report right away, and then for follow up from the Town. TAC members will get feedback to Laura by Monday, 2/13.
- Park and Wachusett. Wayne has developed a few options. Jeff asked if accident data could be collected. TAC will get comments to Wayne by March 1.
- Bus stop on Mass. Ave. at Park Ave. MBTA has requested lengthening of stop, causing loss of 2 parking spaces. Observation by Ed and Jeff is that buses don't pull in all the way even when they can. There is a handicapped space right behind the bus stop that is usually empty. This bus stop lengthening will happen when Key Bus Routes improvements occur in 2013. Prefer to hold off on this until all improvements happen.
- Lake Street. Working Group has begun data collection. Corey will coordinate tube counts at Brooks and Lake.
- CLAMP. Working Group has picked a preferred option—2 bike lanes on Mass Ave, no cycle track on Mass Ave or crossbike signal. Expected to be presented to the Selectmen on Feb. 27, then to Highway Division Project Review Committee. The plan calls for losing parking eastbound in front of Cambridge Savings Bank and a few spaces westbound, and adding parking on Mystic Street.
- Sign Procedure. Going forward, prior to installation of new signs, one rep. from TAC, Police and DPW will meet at the site to locate signs. Corey noted that in Traffic Court, judges look at sign visibility.
- Mass/Water/Spengler. No new measurements yet.
- Mass. Ave. Corridor Project. 75% design to be submitted to MassDOT Highway Division for their comments around March 1. Open House for the public to see plans anticipated in March.
- Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

#### Meeting Materials:

- Meeting packet for February: Agenda, 2/8/12; Minutes of 1/11/12; Letter from David Mohler, Chair, Boston MPO, Re. Response to Comment: Paths to a Sustainable Region, dated January 13, 2012; Email from Juliana Rice To Jeffrey Maxutis, Re. Pedestrian Flag Issue, dated February 3, 2012, with attachments; Annual Report for 2011, Transportation Advisory Committee; Working Group List, 2/8/12; BoS/ARB Request Status, 2/8/12; Individual Action List from 1/11/12; Status of TAC Approved Actions, 2/8/12; Memo to Board of Selectmen from Transportation Advisory Committee Re. Downing Square Update, dated February 6, 2012, with attachments; Memo from Kurt Kelley to Wayne Chouinard Re. Intersection Improvements—Park

Avenue/Wachusett Avenue, dated December 13, 2011; Pictures, Mass. Ave. @ Park Ave.—inbound bus stop.

- CTPS Report, Mass. Ave. at Appleton, Improvement Recommendations and Discussion, January 23, 2012
- Memo to TAC from Wayne Chouinard, Re. Update Items, dated February 8, 2012
- Mill Street Parking, Google earth, 2/8/12.